

Torrance, California
November 13, 1945

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, November 13, 1945 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held October 23, 1945 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held October 30, 1945 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Disaster Medical Service, enclosing three copies of the Los Angeles County Disaster Medical Service Mutual Aid Agreement, together with a copy of the Council's approval of the general Mutual Aid Agreement.

Councilman Cucci moved that the plan be approved. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, calling attention to the unsightly condition of vacant lots and alleys throughout the business district due to the accumulation of refuse, and offering to assist department heads in their efforts to remind all parties responsible.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this matter be referred to Councilman Hitchcock, Chairman of the Street Department Committee. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock commented that every effort is being made to clean up the alleys, and said his only alternative is to refer the matter to the Engineer and Street Department. Mr. Jain added that the City has no authority to enter upon private property except to burn weeds. Councilman Powell suggested that, if business establishments were compelled to keep containers for their refuse, the problem of littered streets would be improved.

A communication was read from the Torrance Parents Association, urging the Council to draft a Charter and present it to the voters of the City at the next special or general election, stating that

this will make it possible for the people to give a clear-cut expression in connection with the school issue.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this matter be referred to the City Attorney for recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, advising that it is the desire of the Board to cancel the lease dated May 7, 1945 by and between City of Torrance and Los Angeles City School District of Los Angeles County whereby a certain portion of the Municipal Park was rented for child care center purposes. It was advised that the last day of occupancy is to be December 14, 1945.

Councilman Powell moved that the application to cancel the lease be accepted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Cynthia Davis, 1535 West 204th Street, urging that every effort be made to assist Veterans in the housing problem.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be filed. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Earl W. Gipe, 24439 Hawthorne Avenue, WALTERIA, suggesting that a resident of WALTERIA be a member of the City Planning Commission.

Councilman Gilbert asked Clerk Bartlett whether or not he had contacted Mr. Crowther, who originally resided in WALTERIA and was the member from that area, but who has since moved from the community, in order to ascertain his wishes in this matter. Clerk Bartlett stated he had not as yet contacted him. He added that he would do so at the earliest possible date.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be filed. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Patricia Elliott, requesting a 90-day permit to continue living in a sub-standard house at 1809 West 228th Street until the time that the house being added is completed.

Engineer Jain advised that the people had applied for a permit to build a house, but had, instead, moved in a sub-standard house and proceeded to occupy it. However, he said, the foundation has been started for the house.

Councilman Powell moved that, inasmuch as inability to obtain materials readily has no doubt held up construction, the permit of 90 days as requested for continued occupancy of their present abode be granted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from E. Turner Martin, advising that he is preparing a Zoning Variance to be submitted to the Torrance City Planning Commission in connection with a feed store located at 24454 Hawthorne Avenue, WALTERIA, and requesting an extension of the temporary license granted him. He advised that he had been granted the license until November 25, 1945, and asked that it be extended to December 15, 1945.

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. Martin be granted an additional sixty (60) days, beginning November 25, 1945, on his temporary license to allow him time to present a Zoning Variance to the Planning Commission, it being the understanding that final action of the Council in this matter is to be based on findings and recommendation of the Planning Commission. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Yellow Cab Company of Torrance, applying for a permit to establish a small frame building, size 10' x 12' to be used as a taxi office and waiting room, on Block 5, Lot 4, 1600 Block, Cabrillo Avenue.

Engineer Jain advised that this location is in Fire Zone No. 1 permitting buildings only of steel or brick construction. He said he would hesitate to recommend allowing a frame building as requested unless it is the desire of the Council to deviate from the Uniform Building Code.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be denied. Councilman Gilbert called attention to the fact that the letter, being signed only by typewriter, is an anonymous one and as such does not constitute a legitimate letter to the Council.

Councilman Hitchcock withdrew his above motion and moved that the communication be filed. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, requesting that the usual \$75.00 be appropriated to defray expenses of the WALTERIA Christmas Party for WALTERIA children.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this request be referred to Dale Riley, Superintendent of the Recreation Department, for recommendation.

Councilmen Cucci and Powell pointed out that this appropriation has in the past several years been made by the Council upon receipt of the request.

Councilman Gilbert qualified his motion by stating that, although he realizes there will be no question about appropriating the sum asked for, he felt Mr. Riley should be consulted relative to whatever program he may have arranged for WALTERIA in case the plans call for more than that amount.

Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference, advising that Mr. Glenn M. Jain has been appointed as Chairman of the Code Changes Committee for the year 1945-46, and urging that his attendance at meetings, usually held in Fresno, be made possible, at the expense of the organization.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the appointment be approved and that the Conference be so notified, and advised that Mr. Jain will be allowed to attend the meetings. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Lucille Lee, Secretary of the Board of Library Trustees, advising that the Board had, at a meeting held September 27, 1945, approved the librarian's request for clerical help while civil service help is not available, and recommending that the city allow the required amount for salaries.

Councilman Cucci moved that the necessary clerical help for the library be authorized at the prevailing wage. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote:
 AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, approved by signatures of the Recreation Commission, submitting a budget for the Recreation Department for inclusion in the proposed post-war bond issue.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the proposed budget be referred to the entire Council for study. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from George P. Thatcher, Torrance Recreational Commission, submitting a proposed ordinance establishing a recreational commission for the City of Torrance, and advising that the model ordinance is consistent with ordinances now in effect in like communities and meets with the approval of the California State Youth Authority.

Mayor Tolson moved that this matter be referred to Attorney McCall for reference. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, requesting that a leave of absence, from September 27 to October 27, 1945, without pay, be granted to Mr. P. O. Cruze, a Street Department Employee, on a retroactive basis, Mr. Cruze having been called East on an emergency and without an opportunity to secure the leave before his departure. It was advised that the Civil Service Board had approved this leave subject to the approval of the City Council.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the action of the Civil Service Board be approved and the request granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, advising that a leave of absence, without pay, had been granted Mrs. Ellen Blackshere by the Board, from December 4, 1945 to February 15, 1946, inclusive, subject to approval of the City Council.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the action of the Civil Service Board be approved and the leave granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read the minutes of a meeting of the North Torrance Improvement Association held November 1, 1945 relative to the proposed water district in North Torrance. Matter of record.

A communication was read from William J. B. Hughes, President, Municipal Ownership League, urging that Mr. John E. McCall, City Attorney, be requested to tender his resignation from that office, or, in the event he fails to do so, that the City Council take necessary steps to remove him from the office of City Attorney. Mr. Hughes alleged that Mr. McCall is incompetent, maintains no regular office hours at the City Hall, although paid on a full time basis, and is a burden upon the City. He asserted that Mr. McCall's record in connection with the bus line matter and several other cases in which he represented the City of Torrance indicates that he is not qualified for the job.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the communication be filed. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci said he thought some reason should be given for ordering the communication filed, whereupon Councilman Gilbert asked Councilman Cucci if he thought a mistake is grounds for dismissal.

Councilman Cucci replied that he did not think one mistake was grounds for dismissal, but that the City Attorney had advised the Council wrong on several occasions and continues to give misleading legal advice, and that he is always lacking in information and causes the Council to wait indefinitely for opinions and reports. He also criticized the irregular office hours of Mr. McCall. He said any time a group of citizens are compelled to take matters to court to force the Council to comply with State laws, resulting in expense to the individuals and a burden to the tax payers, something should be done to eliminate the cause. Therefore, he said, he agreed, that Mr. McCall has been a burden to the City.

Councilman Gilbert asked if this is the first written complaint against Mr. McCall, Councilman Cucci replying that there have been a number of complaints, although he did not know whether they are in writing. Addressing Councilman Gilbert, he advised that he could see why he, Councilman Gilbert, wishes to file the communication inasmuch as he was one of the Councilmen who favored disposing of the Bus Line illegally.

Councilman Powell said it would be well to remember that the law which was passed relative to the sale of public utilities was for the protection of the people. Otherwise, he said, there would be nothing to prevent sale of any branch of a City government by unethical officials, such as the fire department, street department, and any city owned utility.

A discussion ensued relative to difference between sale of a public utility and sale of personal property. The entire bus case was discussed generally, Attorney McCall advising that he had furnished the Council copies of the judgment in the case and is awaiting further orders from the Council.

Councilman Cucci said he wished to clarify a point at this time, advising that he had read in the newspaper that Mr. Koors, prospective purchaser of the Bus Lines, could hold the City liable for any costs he had incurred in connection with his offer to purchase the line as a result of the matter having been taken into court. Attorney McCall replied that the Council, in his opinion, is not liable for

these costs, whereupon Councilman Cucci replied that he wanted to know in case any attempt is made to collect.

At this point, a roll call vote was taken on the motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, to file the communication urging dismissal of Attorney McCall, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell said he could not conscientiously vote to file the communication, as he would favor action at this time. Councilman Cucci said he did not think filing the communication settled the issue to any extent.

A communication was read from Mr. C. J. Magee requesting a pay increase of 20% for himself and his helper, Mr. Depasse, due to the nature of the work they do, being sewer maintenance work.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. Magee be requested to submit this request to the City Engineer and Street Superintendent for recommendation. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the General Petroleum Corporation of California, requesting that the boundaries of the proposed new water district in North Torrance, to be known as "Torrance Municipal Water District No. 2", be so established as to exclude all of General Petroleum Corporation's property which lies southerly of 190th Street.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Taylor and Taylor relative to Municipal Water District No. 2 (North Torrance - proposed), advising that, as a result of a review of the matter of boundaries for this proposed district, it was obvious that the over-all area north of 190th Street would be benefited by inclusion in the proposed district, as well as the area a quarter mile deep lying south of 190th Street and westerly from Crenshaw Boulevard to Hawthorne Avenue.

Councilman Powell said he could not agree that an extensive area should be included in the proposed district resulting in unusual drainage of water from the underground source, as it is most desirable to conserve as much as possible of this water for manufacturing and chemical purposes.

Councilman Hitchcock said he understood that the water supplied through the new district would be used for agricultural purposes and that he understood, the Metropolitan Water is not satisfactory for agricultural use.

Councilman Cucci commented that a concentrated effort is being made to "scare" the North Torrance people into excluding General Petroleum from the water district, but, he said, if they are included there is nothing very much they can do about it. He said the people themselves want the entire area under a bond issue for the proposed water district, and that they constitute the majority both as to people and property.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication from Taylor and Taylor be filed for future reference. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1751

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE FIRM OF O'MELVENY AND MYERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CALLING OF AN ELECTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE ACQUISITION AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF A MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM IN NORTH TORRANCE.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1751 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett reported that the petitions requesting formation of a water district in the WALTERIA-South Torrance area had been filed in his office October 29, 1945, which he had checked with the Great Register and found there to be sufficient bonafide signatures affixed to the petitions to proceed to call an election and submit the proposal to the electorate. He said the action necessary at this time is to authorize the City Clerk to prepare the necessary ordinance and resolution of intention.

Councilman Cucci moved that Clerk Bartlett be authorized to prepare the necessary ordinance and resolution of intention to call an election in connection with the proposed water district in the WALTERIA-South Torrance district. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that City Clerk Bartlett be authorized to write a Resolution of Condolence because of the death of Mr. Harry W. Thompson, Police Officer, and send same to the bereaved family. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$68.75 plus tax, be made for 50 books of Official Receipts for use by the City Court. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$265.00 plus tax be made for fog nozzles, applicators, running board mounting plates and 1 tap and and die for the Fire Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell said he had been asked to determine whether or not it is possible to make some arrangements for returning servicemen to have photostatic copies of their discharge papers made in Torrance. A gentleman in the audience connected with a veterans organization volunteered to take charge of this matter, and report to the Council.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$240.00 be made for payment to Crown Body and Coach Corporation for body repair work on Bus #101. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$93.60, plus tax, be made for 24 street light bowls, #22. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$100.32, plus tax, be made for 24 street light bowls, #123, medium. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Mr. & Mrs. E. M. Standifer, requesting use of the civic auditorium and kitchen for the afternoon

and evening of December 14, 1945 for a dinner dance for the Torrance High School Varsity Football Team, to also include the "B" football team and their guests. It was requested that there be no charge.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request as made be granted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$265.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of paint for the City Library, from the Library Fund. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$535.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of paint for the City Hall, Auditorium and Administration Building. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci expressed pleasure that so large a crowd had elected to attend the Council Meeting and urged that they do so more often.

Councilman Cucci brought up the bus matter at this time and, after a lengthy discourse on operating costs, management, etc., made a motion that Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, be dismissed effective immediately, subject to approval of the Civil Service Board. Councilman Powell seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci, prior to his motion, said that he wished to remind that Mayor Tolson had promised to "clean out" the bus lines after the courts settled the question of the sale one way or the other. He said he felt that all personnel of the Bus Lines who had expressed the desire that the line be sold should be dismissed, and called attention to a letter Mr. Ward directed to the Council in which he, Councilman Cucci said, stated that the Bus Lines would never be successful under municipal ownership. Mr. Cucci said this amounted to lack of confidence in the line, and he felt Mr. Ward was therefore unqualified to act as manager.

Mayor Tolson advised, relative to the motion to dismiss Mr. Ward, that the entire bus matter is not as yet settled by the courts so far as he is concerned, and that there is no one available to replace Mr. Ward anyway. He said he intended to ask the City Attorney to appeal the case.

Councilman Cucci said the Council must have some hidden reason for all this, or they would not be spending more of the taxpayers' money on a lost cause.

Councilman Powell said he believed there had been many complaints against the management of the Bus Lines.

Mayor Tolson replied that this had not been brought into the open until after Mr. Koors had made his offer to purchase the line, and that one of his stipulations had been that the line be left exactly as it was at the time he made the offer, for which reason he, Mayor Tolson, had refused to order any dismissals pending outcome of the case, which, he said, is still unsettled.

A roll call vote was taken on Councilman Cucci's motion to dismiss Mr. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, which failed to carry by the following vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci recited the record of revenue of the Bus Lines over a period of several months, stating that it had increased from about five or six thousand dollars per month to double that amount after certain surveys were made shortly after he became Chairman of the Transportation Committee. He said the line could continue operating with a good revenue. He said that failure of the Council to co-operate with the Bus Lines could cause its failure, but that he hoped that would not be the case. He said it is up to the, "three marketeers who are selling the City", as to whether or not the bus lines thrives or fails.

Mayor Tolson moved that the City Attorney be instructed to appeal the decision handed down by the court that the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines cannot be sold in the manner in which it was proposed to be sold to Mr. Charles F. Koors. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci warned against this and refused any voice in the action in any way whatsoever.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried by the following vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Powell. NOT VOTING: COUNCILMEN: Cucci. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. Koors be required to furnish funds for taking this case into the higher courts.

This motion failing to get a second, he then moved that the Council go on record as refusing to provide funds for taking the case into the higher courts. This motion also failed for want of a second.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$64.00 be made for roofing the City Paint Shop. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$168.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of 6 Manhole Covers and Rims. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$197.73 be made for payment to Harold A. Barnett, Engineer, for services in connection with the 203rd street sewer project. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$75.89 plus tax, be made for 992 gallons bitumuls from American Bitumuls Company, Street Department. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$750.00 be made for reconstruction of the curb, gutter and sidewalk on the west side of Cabrillo Avenue, between Daniels Cafe and the Five-Point Cafe. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$290.37 be made for 1 new 1946 latest style class 900 portable electric ribbon-print Addressograph, mounted in all metal stand, foot controlled operating lever, to replace hand operated machine purchased in June 1928, for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$62.01 be made for 1 All Steel Addressograph filing cabinet, complete with sanitary base and linoleum top, to replace small cabinet, for Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson asked for a report from Chief Stroh relative to the expired permit of Mr. Reynolds to live in a trailer. Chief Stroh advised that Mr. Reynolds has been given two weeks by the court to move into a house.

Engineer Jain reported that the matter reported recently of hazardous condition of curve at 190th Street and Hawthorne Boulevard, near the K.N.X. radio station, has been investigated and proper steps taken.

Engineer Jain said the Edison Company has been requested to furnish figures as to cost of supplying the Park Knolls Tract with sufficient street lighting.

Mayor Tolson moved that the services of the firm of O'Melveny and Myers be engaged in connection with the proposed Post-War Municipal Bond issue. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$200.00 be made for services in obtaining the assessed valuations of all districts included in the proposed post-war Municipal Bond issue. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$941.95 be made for services of A. R. Walker, Architect, covering all work performed to date in connection with proposed post-war Municipal Bond issue. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson brought up the subject of setting the boundaries for Municipal Water District No. 2 (North Torrance - proposed). It was decided to wait until discussion can be heard before acting on this. Mayor Tolson stated that it is hoped the election to be held for Municipal Water District No. 1 (Walteria, South Torrance), and the election for District No. 2 might be held at the same time, and that the one election for District No. 1 must be held within 90 days, as the petitions have been filed.

Clerk Bartlett reminded that the petitions cannot be circulated in North Torrance until the boundaries are settled.

Attorney McCall requested permission to take his vacation December 1, 1945. He recommended that Attorney Otto B. Willett be appointed to act as City Attorney in his absence.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. McCall's request relative to his vacation be granted, and that his recommendation that Attorney Willett be appointed Deputy City Attorney to serve during his absence be concurred in. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Attorney McCall then requested permission to attend the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers Convention in Washington, D. C. to be held December 3, 4 and 5, 1945.

Councilman Cucci asked, "at whose expense?" Mr. McCall replied that his request is for permission to attend, and volunteered to transact any necessary business for the City while there. Councilman Cucci replied that Mr. McCall is at liberty to go any place or do as he pleases while on vacation, and that he did not think action is necessary.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Attorney be authorized to attend the Convention in Washington, D. C. to obtain whatever

information is available in connection with the Lomita Flight Strip which the City is interested in acquiring. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci maintained that the motion is confusing and unnecessary, unless it is being done for the purpose of authorizing expenses. He asked for an open statement on this, but the point was never clarified.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to authorize Attorney McCall to attend the convention, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Attorney McCall asked whether or not there are any instructions the Council would like to give in connection with the airport, particularly so far as designating the use for which the City wants the field. He said he had not intended to start his vacation until after the Convention and would not like to remain there several more days than necessary if the matter could be handled more expeditiously by having clear cut instructions now.

Mayor Tolson said he did not think there are any new developments of which Mr. McCall has not been informed, but that he thought he could safely state the City would like the field for a municipal airport. He asked Attorney McCall to contact him for certain files and information he has in connection with this subject.

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. and Mrs. Standifer, who requested use of the auditorium on behalf of the Torrance High School Varsity Football Team, be advised of action taken earlier in the meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson announced that the City of Torrance and the City of Redondo Beach, as co-hosts, will entertain the League of California Cities during the month of January.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Opening of oral communications brought forth a lengthy, heated discussion of many controversial issues, being: the bus issue, proposed north Torrance Water District, proposed airport in North Torrance, occupancy of the old Japanese school building in WALTERIA by either thirteen or seventeen Japanese people returned from a Relocation Camp, deed restrictions against alien occupancy or ownership of certain property, and other subjects of less importance, with everyone who spoke "objecting" to one thing or another.

Mr. A. E. Elder and Mr. H. B. Hughes spoke briefly about the bus lines situation, both being people who favor, and have been in favor of, keeping the bus lines. Mr. Hughes charged that "sabotage" had been taking place in the City Government.

Mr. Blackwood of North Torrance opened the discussion relative to the move on foot to locate an airport in North Torrance, objecting strenuously, and being supported by many people in the assemblage.

Mr. Joel Hagberg objected to the manner in which the request of the WALTERIA Civic Organization for Christmas funds had been handled.

He also stated that there is much interest in having sidewalks constructed on NEECE Avenue in WALTERIA.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Engineer Jain be authorized to prepare estimates of the cost of installing sidewalks on NEECE Avenue in WALTERIA. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Stevenson of the Moneta Water Company opened the discussion on the proposed North Torrance water district, stating that he wished it be made clear his company does not object to the formation of the district, but requesting that property served by the Moneta Water Company be excluded from the District.

Mr. Crowe of Walteria introduced the subject of the triple-family occupancy by Japanese people of the old Japanese school house. He asked for a clarification of the meaning of "R-1 Zone".

Engineer Jain read the definition given in the zoning map index, and stated that the building meets the requirement, since it has only one kitchen. He advised Mr. Crowe that he had no authority to say how many people shall live in a house, so long as the structure itself meets the zoning requirements.

Several ladies of the audience added their voices to the subject, which evolved into a heated controversy, Mr. Jain not participating in same, but with the ladies and Mr. Crowe giving verbal expression to their feelings in the matter, charging that neighborhood conditions are most disagreeable since the Japs have moved in.

Mr. Jain endeavored to point out that he had absolutely no control over this situation, but the audience was relentless in its attack upon Mr. Jain for, "allowing this deplorable condition to exist". After repeated efforts to clarify the point that he had no power beyond checking the structure itself, he let the audience do the talking entirely.

Mr. Crowe angrily stated that the point they are trying to make is that, if something is not done, the people will take matters into their own hands.

At this point, Chief Stroh entered the discussion and reminded Mr. Crowe that it is the duty of the Police Department to protect all people, Japanese as well as anyone else, and advised Mr. Crowe that his remark had been disorderly and out of place, to which Mr. Crowe replied that he had not meant it personally.

The discussion reverted back to the North Torrance Water District matter, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Calloway, Mrs. Gonner, and members of the Council participating, but with no action resulting.

Mr. Calloway of North Torrance stated that, inasmuch as the immediate need of North Torrance is for water, and since big corporations, referring particularly to General Petroleum Corporation, are so influential as to render the individual powerless to institute measures contrary to their wishes, he felt the reasonable solution to the problem would be to accept the first report of the Engineers to establish the southerly boundary line of the proposed water district at 190th Street and thereby give the district the much needed water, rather than become entangled in a lengthy, costly litigation with General Petroleum Corporation over boundary lines and perhaps defeat the entire proposal. He made a motion to this effect, which was ruled out of order.

A Mrs. Clark asked that Arlington Avenue between 182nd and 174th Streets be repaired, stating that the street is the worst street in Torrance, causing the people who must use it to be constantly replacing broken springs in their cars. Councilman Hitchcock said the matter would be looked into, and recognized the fact that the street is bad.

Deed restrictions were discussed at this time, it being advised by Walteria people that the deeds for property in the Meadow Park Tract, Walteria, contain clauses prohibiting alien ownership of land, or occupancy of property by aliens. Someone in the audience demanded to know why Mr. McCall had not looked into this matter some time ago when requested to do so. Engineer Jain advised he did not think this had been presented properly, as he had been asked to check the Walteria Tract, which he had done, and felt that it had probably been intended at that time that the Meadow Park Tract be checked.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Since the audience was becoming openly antagonistic and belligerent, and no constructive suggestions were being offered it was decided to end the oral communications by adjourning.

Upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 P.M. until November 20, 1945 at 7:45 P.M.

A. H. B. Paulson
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

H. H. Tolson
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE